

## CONGRATULATING ERIC COWDEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eric Cowden, a resident of Pennsylvania Furnace, Pennsylvania, a constituent of mine. This past month, Eric, a graduate of Penn State University, was recognized by the National Future Farmers of America with the organization's highest honor, the FFA Honorary American Degree.

As a youngster growing up on the family farm in Washington County, Pennsylvania, Eric was involved with the FFA, like many students in rural communities, showing steer, heifers, and lambs from a young age. Upon graduating from Penn State with a degree in agricultural sciences and earning his master's in business from Delaware Valley College, Eric went on to work for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. There, he administered the Rural Youth grant program, led the county fair in the agri-tourism division, and eventually rose to director of the central region office for the department. Eric also holds several leadership roles with the Marcellus Shale Coalition, bringing together two of Pennsylvania's most historic and important industries: energy and agriculture.

Eric is well deserving of this honor, and we thank him for his leadership in the field of agriculture and agricultural education.

## SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, on February 15, a small group of Democratic Members of the House joined together to form the Safe Climate Caucus. We vowed to come to the House floor every day to talk about the defining environmental challenge of our time: climate change. Today marks the 100th day we have spoken on the House floor.

The Safe Climate Caucus is composed of Representatives from across this country. We come from the west coast, the east coast, the North, the South, and the Midwest. We come from coastal regions, urban areas, and rural communities. We represent a cross-section of America.

We started the Safe Climate Caucus because of the enormous disconnect that exists between what scientists are telling us about the dangers of climate change and the conspiracy of silence and denial that exists in this House. There is a mountain of evidence that climate change is a real and dangerous threat to the future of our children and grandchildren. Yet this body refuses to accept the scientific reality.

I wish my Republican colleagues would open their eyes and escape their congressional bubble. Firefighters

across the West know that fires are getting bigger and more dangerous. Farmers in the Midwest know that droughts and floods are becoming more common and more intense. Coastal communities know that rising sea levels and extreme storms threaten their very existence. And just last month, a supertyphoon—perhaps the strongest ever recorded—demolished entire cities in the Philippines.

Extreme weather, sea level rise, heat waves, droughts, flooding, wildfires, pests—that is what climate change looks like. So what is this House doing? Denying, obstructing, and weakening the Clean Air Act.

In June, the International Energy Agency warned that, if we don't act now, avoiding catastrophic climate change will cost trillions of dollars. In October, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that the evidence that the Earth is warming is "unequivocal." This is the same level of confidence that scientists have that smoking causes cancer. Last month, the World Meteorological Association reported that the levels of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere set new records, reaching concentrations higher than any in the last 800,000 years. Yet this House endures it all.

We challenged the Republicans on the Energy and Commerce Committee to come to the floor and debate us, to defend their record of inaction. They never showed up. The committee won't even hold a hearing to listen to the scientists. Democrats are in the minority, so we can't call hearings. But we won't be muzzled.

Since February, the members of the Safe Climate Caucus reported on the alarms that the scientists are sounding.

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In fact, today marks the 100th legislative day that members from the Safe Climate Caucus have spoken out. Except during the Republican shutdown of the government, our members have come to the floor every day we have been in session. It has not always been easy to keep this streak of speeches alive, but we have come because of the commitment of our 31 members to take action before it is too late.

We are speaking out because we know we have a duty to our neighbors, to our children, and to our grandchildren. We know that when future generations look back at these times, they won't remember the debates we have had on the deficit. They won't remember the debates we have had on boosting oil drilling. What they will want to know is whether we acted to protect the world from catastrophic climate change while we still had time, and they will want to know whether we made the investments we need to make the United States the world leader in the clean energy technologies of the future.

We are at a critical juncture. I urge all Members to join with the Safe Cli-

mate Caucus in ensuring we make the right choices for our future and for our economy.

## OBAMACARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, since ObamaCare implementation began on October 1, the President has spent much of his time talking about the malfunctioning Web site. However, I would remind the President of his own words several weeks ago: ObamaCare is more than just a Web site.

The Web site was supposed to be the easy part, and as more people sign onto it, they will be made aware of the real problems with ObamaCare. In fact, when the millions of Americans currently losing their health care plans try to log on to healthcare.gov, they will be met with drastically increased premiums, skyrocketing out-of-pocket costs, and reduced access to the doctors and hospitals they know. These problems are in direct contrast to the repeated promises made by the President.

My constituents are rightly concerned with these broken promises and are regularly contacting me and my office to voice their concerns. For instance, Jillian in Sparta, Tennessee, wrote to me:

Every year in the past, my health care insurance has increased by a small percentage—sometimes 5 percent, sometimes 7 percent. This past week, I received my new premiums for 2014. They increased by 250 percent. Same plan, same coverage, same insurance company.

And Jillian isn't alone. Nearly three times as many Americans say they have been hurt rather than helped by ObamaCare, according to a recent poll. This from a law that the President promised would lower insurance premiums by as much as \$2,500.

Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare is much more than a Web site. It is an unmitigated disaster. The effects of this law are wreaking havoc on our health care system and exposing the President's broken promises to Americans across this country.

My House Republican colleagues and I have tried repeatedly to protect Americans from this law, but the only way to do so is for Democrats to join us. For instance, the Senate can act right now to pass the Fairness for American Families Act that was passed out of the House this summer. This legislation would give fairness under ObamaCare by delaying the law's mandate for people, not just big businesses.

The President may be all in on his health care law, but that doesn't mean congressional Democrats need to follow him off of a cliff.

As disapproval of ObamaCare continues to rise, I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to distance themselves from ObamaCare and join us by trying to protect the American